

**REMARKS**

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 18, 2007. Claims 1-26 are currently pending. By the present amendment, claims 27-30 have been canceled. No new issues are presented by these amendments. Prompt and favorable consideration of these claims is earnestly sought.

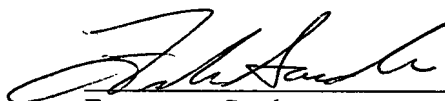
Claims 1-13 and 17-25 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14, 15, and 32-50 of copending Application No. 10/484,749. Upon information and belief, Applicants respectfully submit that copending Application No. 10/484,749 is commonly owned with the present application. A terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) is filed herewith, thereby overcoming the provisional rejection of claims 1-13 and 17-25.

Claims 14-16 and 26 were provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14, 15, and 32-50 of copending Application No. 10/484,749 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,827,319 to Carlson et al. (hereinafter "Carlson"). Upon information and belief, Applicants respectfully submit that U.S. Patent No. 5,827,319 is commonly owned with the present application. A terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) is filed herewith. Therefore, the rejection of claims 14-16 and 26 has been overcome and claims 14-16 and 26 are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Carlson. By the present amendment, claims 27-30 have been canceled. Therefore the rejection of claims 27-30 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Carlson has been rendered moot.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are in proper format, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below with any questions concerning this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Francesco Sardone', is written over a horizontal line.

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